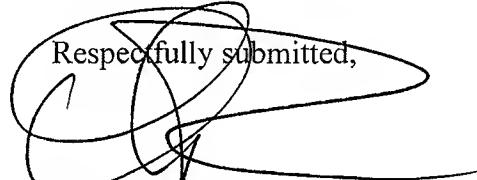


II. REMARKS

Applicants elect to proceed with the Group III invention, represented by claims 1-26, 29 and 30, without traverse. Applicants have withdrawn claims 27 and 28 as drawn to an unelected invention, subject to rejoinder.

Applicant's disagree with the characterization of the inventions of claim 27 and 28, and note that the surgical limitations of these claims are in *addition* to the limitations of the main claim 1. The Examiner's comments regarding the proposed Group VI invention are inconsistent with this plain reading of claims 27 and 28 in view of the language of claim 1. However, the Action's apparently incorrect interpretation of these claims appear to be irrelevant to the action taken by applicant herein.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 536-3055 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,


David L. Parker
Reg. No. 32,165

Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
512.474.5201 (telephone)
512.536.4598 (fax)

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